
SECTION: CERTIFICATION

**SUBJECT: Certification Requirements: Services/Information Provided by
the Local Agency at the Time of Certification**



ITEM: *Alcohol and Drug Abuse*

POLICY

Local agencies shall increase WIC participants' access to information about the dangers of using alcohol, drugs, and other harmful substances during pregnancy and while breastfeeding, and screen and make referrals for counseling and treatment, as appropriate. Local agencies shall also maintain a list of local counseling and treatment programs, hotlines, and self help groups for referring alcohol and other drug users.

Legal and Federal Authority

This policy complies with Section 3201 of Public Law 100-690, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, amended Section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966. Federal regulations were issued on January 26, 1993 for implementation by March 29, 1993 Appendix 910-50, 7 Code of Federal Regulations Part 246 Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children; Drug and Other Harmful Substance Abuse Information and Referrals.

Definition of Terms

The terms "drug abuse education", "drug abuse referral", "drugs", and "other harmful substances" are defined as:

- **Drug abuse education:** Provision of information concerning the dangers of drug abuse.
- **Drug abuse referral:** referral of participants who are suspected drug abusers to drug abuse clinics, treatment program counselors, or other drug abuse professionals, and the provision of educational materials.
- **Drugs:** A beverage containing alcohol, a controlled substance, or a controlled substance analogue.
- **Other harmful substances:** Substances such as tobacco, prescription drugs, and over-the-counter medications, that may be harmful to the health of the WIC population, especially the pregnant woman and fetus.

The latter two terms "drugs" and "other harmful substances" are used interchangeably and for augmentation.

The Role of WIC

Local agencies shall meet the alcohol and drug abuse requirements by providing the following:

- (1) Screen and refer, as appropriate, at initial and subsequent certification.
- (2) Provide information at any nutrition education contact.

INTEGRATION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND
REFERRAL ACTIVITIES AT LOCAL AGENCIES

ROLE	HOW	RESOURCES
<p><i>Disseminating Information:</i></p> <p>Raise awareness of the dangers of drug abuse by disseminating information to all adult participants and the parents/caretakers of infants and child participants</p>	<p>Incorporate drug abuse information into existing program operations using a positive information sharing approach, e.g., nutrition education which includes individual and group education.</p>	<p>Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) materials for WIC participants and WIC professional staff.</p> <p>Refer to Appendix 990-30 FNS education materials on Dangers of Substance Abuse During Pregnancy.</p>
<p><i>Screening:</i></p> <p>Conduct screening of participants only to the extent necessary to determine whether there is possible alcohol and other drug use.</p>	<p>The questions for drug abuse screening should be part of the nutritional assessment. At the time of initial and subsequent certification the counselor shall determine if the participant may have a problem.</p>	<p>Nutrition assessment certification forms in assessing past and present history on alcohol, drug and tobacco use.</p>

ROLE	HOW	RESOURCES
<i>Referrals:</i> Refer to available community programs for assessment and treatment by professionals. .	If responses to screening questions are positive, or indicate that alcohol or drug abuse may be a possibility, an immediate referral for assessment should be made for participants not already in care. Regardless of whether a referral is accepted or rejected, a simple notation should be made on either the participant's casefile or family folder documenting that a referral was suggested. If referral is accepted, an electronic or written notation should be made as to when and to whom the referral was made.	The list of current local resources maintained by local agencies should include counseling and treatment programs, and hotline and self-help groups for alcohol and other drug users. The directory of local resources shall include the program's name and location, services, provided, hours, cost, eligibility requirements, admission procedures, and contact person.

ROLE	HOW	RESOURCES
<i>Continuation Referrals:</i>	Establish linkages with referral agencies to coordinate referrals	Maintain a current list of resources on drug and alcohol counseling and treatment programs, and self help groups. Establish linkages with Alcohol and Drug programs in the community.